

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN – TOWN OF NATICK

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## **OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

EDWARD H. DLOTT MEETING ROOM – NATICK TOWN HALL

December 21, 2015

6:00 PM

**PRESENT:** Chairman Charles M. Hughes, Vice Chair J. Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk Nicholas S. Mabardy, Member Josh Ostroff, and Member John J. Connolly

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Martha L. White and Executive Assistant Trish O'Neil

Chairman Charles Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Jennett, moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to Real Property, Municipal Aggregation, and Collective Bargaining, with the Chair announcing that discussion of Executive Session matters in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Board of Selectmen's negotiating position and the Town's interests. By a roll call vote, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jennett, Mr. Mabardy, Mr. Ostroff, and Mr. Connolly all voted in favor of the motion. The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. after announcing that the meeting would return to Open Session at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed in honor of those protecting our country.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hughes extended best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

## **CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

Rosemary Driscoll, President of the Natick Education Foundation, gave a short presentation on the TEDxNatick Program scheduled at Natick High School on Saturday, January 23, 2017. A nonprofit, TED is devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. TEDx, an offshoot of TED, is a program of local, self-organized events in which people come together to share a TED-like experience. The TEDxNatick Program is to include at least a dozen live speakers, including the founder of Natick's World War II Museum, physicians, artists, and more, all sharing "stories that inspire." Tickets are on sale for \$27 at [www.tedxnatick.org](http://www.tedxnatick.org).

## **WHAT'S NEW**

Linda Stetson, Director of the Morse Institute, gave a short presentation on the library's new acquisition of a 3-D printer, located in the newly opened "Innovation Studio" on the second floor of the library and purchased with a private grant from Cognex. Library patrons will be assessed a charge for use of the printer related to materials. Ms. White thanked Cognex for their donation.

## **APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

1. **Public Hearing – Renewal of Special Club Permits for 2016:** Mr. Mabardy read the public hearing notice aloud and then moved, seconded by Mr. Jennett, to open the public hearing. The motion was carried unanimously. Renewal of the following special club permits was approved unanimously by the Board contingent upon receipt of all required documentation:

Natick Elks	On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff
VFW	On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff
Sons of Italy	On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff
Amvets	On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff

2. **Natick Elks – Request for One-Day Entertainment License and One-Hour Time Extension on New Year’s Eve:** Richard Donovan, the club secretary, requested a one-day license for New Year’s Eve that would allow the club to stay open until 12:30 a.m., with all patrons gone by 1:00 a.m., and a one-day entertainment license in order to provide karaoke for the evening. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, both licenses were approved unanimously.
3. **Peter Roche – SCADA Contract for DPW:** In April of 2015, the Board awarded the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) contract to SCADANetworks of Atkinson, N.H., which was thereafter acquired by Wright-Pierce of Portland, ME. Town Counsel determined that this acquisition caused the contract to become invalid and recommended a rebid. The procurement officer recommended that the Board award a three-year contract to Wright-Pierce at \$130.00 per hour since theirs was the only bid for highly specialized work that not many companies perform. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board voted unanimously to award the contract as above.
4. **Paul McKinley – Parking RFP Committee Update:** The request is for the Board to approve release of a Request for Information (RFI), a nonbinding document, related to the Middlesex and South Ave parking structure. This would be a preliminary document distributed to design/development firms to assess the concepts and ideas such firms might propose, which would then be used as the framework for the actual Request for Proposal (RFP). On a motion by Mr. Mabardy, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board voted unanimously in favor of releasing an RFI as above.
5. **Eileen Manning-Merritt – Request to Waive Natick Housing Authority Construction Fees:** Ms. White stated that the Housing Authority is close to receiving bids for renovation of 6 Plain Street and 72 South Main Street and that they are asking for a waiver of construction permit fees. On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Connolly, the Board voted unanimously to waive the permit fees.

## **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

6. **Public Employee Committee Health Insurance Contract Ratification:** Ms. White was pleased to announce that the administration has reached an agreement with all but one of the unions regarding the cost allotment of health care. A two-year contract was entered into, which the Public Employee Committee (PEC) presented to the union membership, achieving a 51% favorable vote (teachers represented 47%, and retirees also voted favorably). Ms. White stated that the Board had voted favorably on this matter earlier in Executive Session with this being the public announcement. Mr. Connolly pointed out that he was, and remains, against the new health insurance contract, stating that the employees felt that they were blindsided by the changes and that the whole process was fast tracked. Mr. Mabardy stated that he had not participated in any of the discussions regarding health insurance because he had been advised not to by the Ethics Commission. Mr. Hughes pointed out that the savings to the Town would be \$1 million. Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, moved to ratify the Board’s vote to approve the new health insurance contract. The motion was carried 3-1-1, with Mr. Connolly the dissenting vote and Mr. Mabardy abstaining.
7. **Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule January-June 2016 – Revised:** On a motion by Mr. Mabardy, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revised scheduled of Selectmen meeting dates.

8. **Fire Station 4 Building Committee:** The recommendation, per Ms. White, is for the Board to consider forming a Fire Station 4 Design Committee to work toward the development of a new fire station, the composition of which would be similar to that of the 2007 Study Committee, including a member of the Board, the Town Administrator or her designee, the Fire Chief, a member of the Finance Committee, a member of the Deputy Chiefs' Union, 2 members of the Firefighters' Union, a member of the Planning Board, and two citizens-at-large. Moved by Mr. Ostroff and seconded by Mr. Connolly, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The need for committee members will be advertised and this item will be on the February 1<sup>st</sup> Selectmen's agenda to make appointments to the committee.
9. **Confirm Appointment of Marci Shaffer to the Commission on Disability:** This appointment is made by the Town Administrator and approved by the Board. Moved by Mr. Ostroff and seconded by Mr. Connolly, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Ms. Shaffer, who will fill the vacancy left by Joan Sheridan.
10. **Update on the Walcott and Kennedy Trust Funds:** Ms. White provided a quick update on the Walcott and Kennedy Trust Fund Committee, referring to the Attorney General's opinion that the committee is not a public body subject to the Open Meeting Law.
11. **Proposed Transportation Advisory Committee:** Mr. Ostroff's request is that the Board consider the establishment of a new Transportation Advisory Committee whose charge would be to advise the Town on transportation projects and policies, discharging the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory and MBTA Station Advisory Committees and incorporating the charges of these committees into the charge of the new committee. Mr. Hughes recommended notifying the two committees that the Board is considering sunsetting them and rolling their duties into a newly formed committee, and that the matter be placed on the January 19<sup>th</sup> agenda for further discussion.
12. **Naming of Walking Paths:** Mr. Ostroff has suggested identifying paths to which the Town has a right of access and naming existing walking paths for several purposes: safety, utility, measurement and budgeting, health and recreation, and public interest. Mr. Hughes suggested getting recommendations from the Safety Committee, the Conservation Commission, and the School Committee. Mr. Jennett agreed, suggesting that they be asked to provide input for the Board's January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
13. **Open the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** Mr. Mabardy read the public notice of the Board's intention to call Spring Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Natick High School. Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, moved to call Spring Annual Town Meeting, indicating that Warrant Articles would need to be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2016. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
14. **Establishing Sawin House Advisory Committee:** Mr. Ostroff recommended that the Board establish and advertise for nominations to a Sawin House Advisory Committee pursuant to the Fall Annual Town Meeting vote on November 3, 2015 under Article 35. Ms. White provided a committee charge and stated that Jemma Lambert had offered to serve as liaison to the committee. Mr. Ostroff stated that the composition of the committee does not have to be limited to Natick residents. Mr. Ostroff proposed some minor changes to the committee charge. Mr. Hughes moved to accept the committee charge with changes as outlined by Mr. Ostroff and Mr. Jennett seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
15. **Town Administrator Evaluation:** Mr. Hughes advised that all Board Members meet with Ms. White by the end of January to discuss her performance evaluation for Fiscal Year 2015, which is well past due.

- 16. Update on Electricity Aggregation and Eversource Rates:** In response to Mr. Connolly's motion at the last Selectmen's meeting (which was tabled in order to acquire a legal opinion) regarding cancelling the Town's contract with ConEdison Solutions, Ms. White stated that Town Counsel had advised that breaking the contract could result in a lawsuit for breach of contract. Ms. White discouraged the Board from taking this course of action. There are a number of options available to residents who no longer wish to participate in the program. Information will be placed on the front page of the Town's website and flyers regarding those options will be available to residents at the Community-Senior Center, the Town Clerk's office, both libraries, and the Selectmen's Office.
- 17. West Suburban Health Group Joint Purchase Agreement Revisions:** With no vote required by the Board, Ms. White simply provided information to the Board as is required in her capacity as a member of the West Suburban Health Group (WSHG), a collaborative through which Natick and 11 other entities purchase their health insurance, with the idea being that better pricing can be obtained as a member of a larger group. WSHG has proposed amendments to the agreement between the group itself and its members related to Medicare coverage, withdrawal timetables, etc. This item was presented to the Board for informational purposes only.
- 18. Ratification of Facilities Management Union Contract:** On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the Facilities Management Union contract, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

#### **REQUESTED ACTION**

- 19. Request for Municipal Employee Exemption from Town By-Laws, Article 41, Section 4 – Adam Lee:** Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board voted unanimously to approve a municipal employee exemption for Adam Lee, whose current position in Town is that of camp counselor for Parks & Recreation. His second position with the School Department will be as a tutor/mentor for the after school program.

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES**

None.

#### **SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS**

Mr. Connolly asked why FAR monies were not used for Pegan Lane and Mr. Hughes explained that Town Meeting had decided against it. Mr. Connolly asked why there were parking signs indicating that payment should be made at a kiosk at St. Patrick's Church and requested that someone look into this. Mr. Connolly mentioned that there have been substantial pay raises for some employees and pointed out the economic disparity between saving money on health care costs while simultaneously paying out more in nonunion salaries.

Mr. Ostroff asked the Board to consider a policy stating that Board Members should use Town email only.

Mr. Mabardy asked when the budget would be presented and Mr. Hughes responded with January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Ms. White stated that she and Mr. Towne would be presenting the budget.

On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted on a roll call vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 9:38 p.m.



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Nicholas S. Mabardy, Clerk

December 21, 2015 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on June 13, 2016

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**All documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:**

**<http://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=206&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>**